

I oppose loosening the rules designed to promote and protect diversity of media ownership. These rules were adopted to ensure that the public would receive a diverse range of viewpoints from the media, and not simply the opinions of a handful of media conglomerates.

Allowing the "mainstream" media to fall into the hands of a handful of owners represents a colossal failure of the FCC. This trend has resulted in the homogenization of widely accepted information, and is a serious threat to whatever democracy remains in the US.

National Public Broadcasting now appears to be tainted by big money interests as well, as they look increasingly to huge destructive corporations for financial support. These organizations are allowed to greenwash themselves as supporters of so-called public broadcasting, and their often human hating agendas almost certainly influence the programmers of public broadcasting. At the same time, the FCC appears to be penalizing truly public information broadcasters, such as my local community radio station, KBOO. KBOO was fined for playing a song with strong political meaning, that happened to contain sexual language. Language that appears tame compared to the swill that pours from commercial towers. The "mainstream" has almost completely ignored stories that I consider to be vital to a continuation of US democracy, including the 2000 Florida Election fraud, as reported by investigative journalist, Greg Palast, and the Bush mob involvement in the 911 attacks.

I strongly support the idea that the airways belong to the people. This is what I think the test should be for broadcasters. Do they seek a profit for their efforts? If the answer is yes, these organizations should be required to provide substantial "prime time" hours for groups who represent the communities where they operate. As an alternative, these organizations should be compelled by the FCC to pay substantial fees as compensation to the public for allowing them to use public airwaves. The fees should then be made available to community broadcasters who do not rely on commercial interests for the bulk of their funding.

The FCC should have zero say-so with respect to program content. Freedom of speech is paramount to maintaining a democracy. Listeners and viewers have plenty of venues to oppose content that they consider to be offensive. The FCC should concentrate on making sure that the needs and rights of the public are of primary concern in all cases. Commercial broadcasters are more than capable of advocating for themselves.